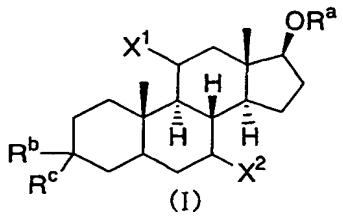
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A compound represented by the general formula (I), pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or prodrugs of the compound or its salts:



(I)

~~[~~wherein X^1 represents a hydrogen atom and X^2 ~~represent independently a hydrogen atom or~~ represents a group represented by the general formula (II)

$-Ar-A-R^1$ (II)

R^a represents a hydrogen atom or a protective group of a hydroxyl group, R^b and R^c, when taken together with the carbon atom in 3-position to which they are bound, represent an optionally protected $-(C=O)-$~~, and the dashed line in combination with the solid line represents the formation of a single bond or a double bond~~;

in addition, Ar represents a single bond or an

aromatic hydrocarbon group, A represents a methylene group or -O-, R^1 represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted alkenyl group or an optionally substituted alkynyl group;

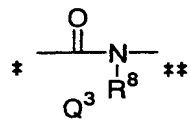
provided that when R^a represents a hydrogen atom and R^b and R^c represent -(C=O)-, X^2 is not a propyl group or an allyl group [X^1 and X^2 are not a hydrogen atom at the same time].

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or prodrugs of the compound or its salts, wherein R^1 is R^{1a} [where R^{1a} is the general formula (III)

-G-E-J-Y-L-Q-Z (III)

{wherein G represents an optionally substituted straight-chained or branched alkylene group having 1 - 30 carbon atoms, an optionally substituted straight-chained or branched alkenylene groups having 2 - 30 carbon atoms or an optionally substituted straight-chained or branched alkynylene group having 2 - 30 carbon atoms, E represents a single bond or -O-, J represents a single bond, an optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, Y represents a single bond or -O-, L represents a single bond, a straight-chained or branched

alkylene group having 1 - 10 carbon atoms, a straight-chained or branched alkenylene group having 2 - 10 carbon atoms or a straight-chained or branched alkynylene group having 2 - 10 carbon atoms, Q represents a single bond or one group selected from among the following formulae: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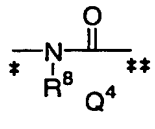
R8
Q3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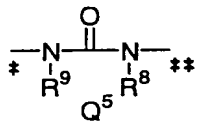
O
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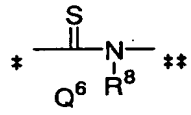
N
R9
R8
Q5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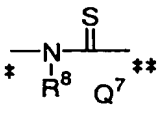
R8
Q6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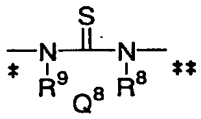
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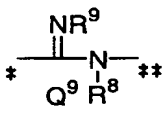
N
R9
R8
Q8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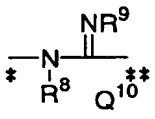
R8
Q9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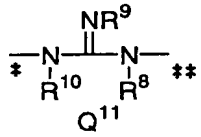
Q10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N
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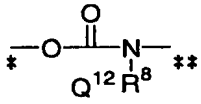
R10
R8
Q11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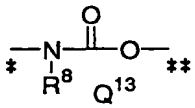
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R8
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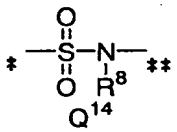
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O
R8
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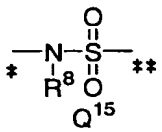
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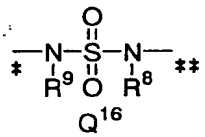
S
R8
O
Q15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S
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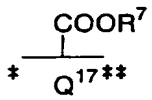
R9
O
R8
Q16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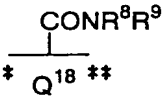
Q17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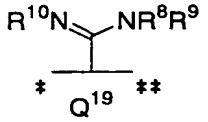
Q18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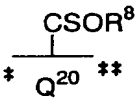
NR8R9
Q19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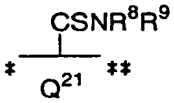
Q20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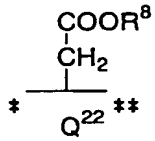
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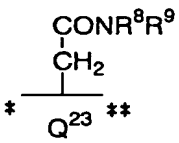
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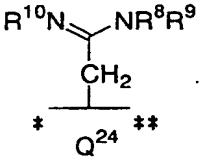
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NR8R9
CH2
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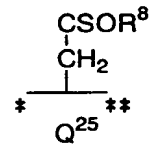
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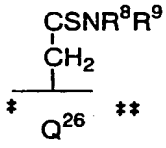
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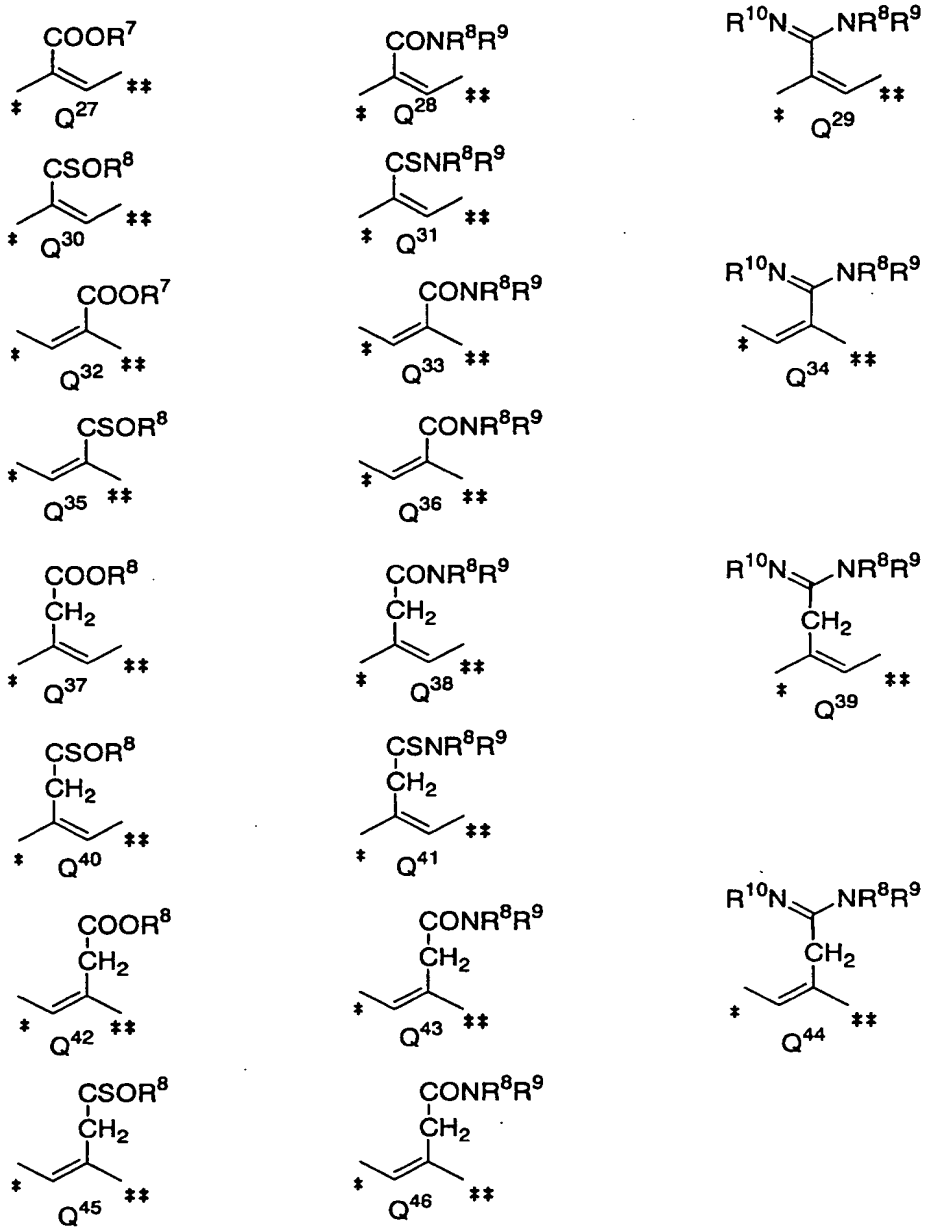
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Q27
CONR8R9
Q28
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NR8R9
Q29
CSOR8
Q30
CSNR8R9
Q31
COOR7
Q32
CONR8R9
Q33
R10N
NR8R9
Q34
CSOR8
Q35
CONR8R9
Q36
COOR8
CH2
Q37
CONR8R9
CH2
Q38
R10N
NR8R9
CH2
Q39
CSOR8
CH2
Q40
CSNR8R9
CH2
Q41
COOR8
CH2
Q42
CONR8R9
CH2
Q43
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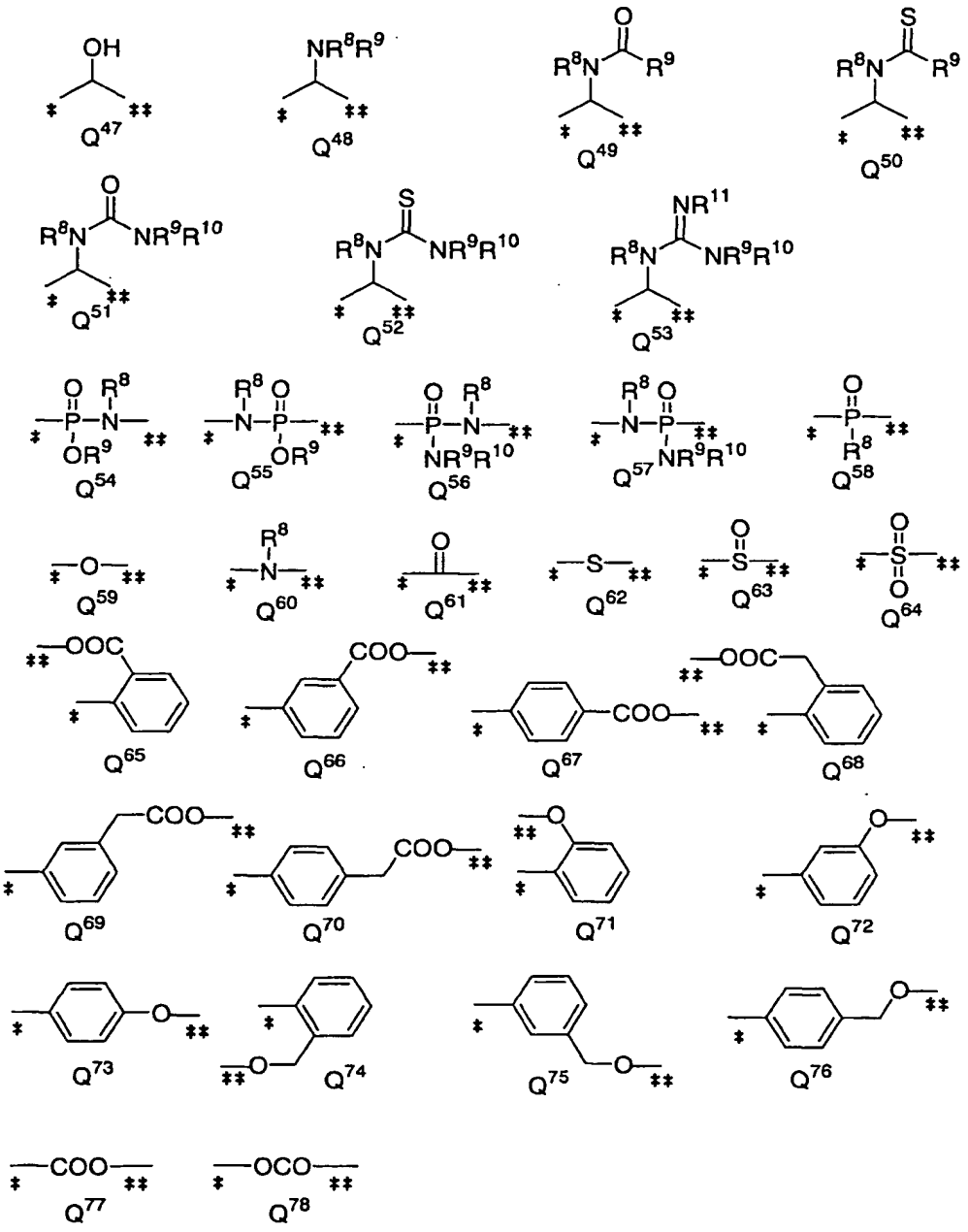
NR8R9
CH2
Q44
CSOR8
CH2
Q45
CONR8R9
CH2
Q46

and



(where R^7 and R^8 represent independently a hydrogen atom or a straight-chained or branched lower alkyl group having 1 - 6 carbon atoms, R^9, R^{10} and R^{11} each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a straight-chained or branched lower alkyl group having 1 - 3 carbon atoms), Z represents a hydrogen

atom, a straight-chained or branched alkyl group having 1 - 10 carbon atoms that may optionally be substituted by a halogen atom, a straight-chained or branched alkenyl group having 2 - 10 carbon atoms that may optionally be substituted by a halogen atom, a straight-chained or branched alkynyl group having 2 - 10 carbon atoms that may optionally be substituted by a halogen atom, $-O-R^d$ (where R^d represents a hydrogen atom or a protective group of a hydroxyl group), or $-COOH^+$, provided that when Q is Q^3, the nitrogen atom and R^8 in Q^3 may combine with Z to form a heterocyclic group}].

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of said compound or its salt thereof, wherein Q is Q^2 (where Q^2 represents a single bond), Q^{62}, Q^{63}, Q^{64}, Q^3 (where R^8 has the same meaning as defined above), Q^4 (where R^8 has the same meaning as defined above), Q^{17} (where R^7 has the same meaning as defined above), Q^{32} (where R^7 has the same meaning as defined above) or Q^{27} (where R^7 has the same meaning as defined above).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1, apharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of said compound or a salt thereof, wherein X^1 is $-Ar-A-R^1$ (wherein Ar, A and R^1 have the same

meanings as defined above) and X^2 is a hydrogen atom.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of said compound or a salt thereof, wherein X^1 is a hydrogen atom and X^2 is -Ar-A-R^1 (wherein Ar, A and R^1 have the same meanings as defined ~~above~~ in claim 1).

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Amended): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein the steric configuration of X^2 in 7-position is α-configuration.

Claim 9 (Amended): The compound according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Z is a straight-chained or branched alkyl group having 1 - 10 carbon atoms which optionally is substituted by a halogen atom.

Claim 10 (Original): The compound according to claim 9, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, or prodrugs of the compound or its salts, wherein Z is a 4,4,5,5,5-pentafluoropentyl group.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein J is a single bond.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Ar is a single bond.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein A is a methylene group.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Q is Q^{62}, Q^{63} or Q^{64}.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Q is Q^3 where R^8 is a hydrogen atom or Q^4 where R^8 is a hydrogen atom.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The compound

according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Q is Q^{17} where R^7 is a hydrogen atom, Q^{32} where R^7 is a hydrogen atom or Q^{27} where R^7 is a hydrogen atom.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Ar is an aromatic hydrocarbon group and A is -O-.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein G is an optionally substituted straight-chained alkylene group having 2 - 15 carbon atoms.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a prodrug of the compound or its salt, which is selected from the group consisting of
17β-hydroxy-7α-{7-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl}-5□-androstan-3-one;
17β-hydroxy-7α-{7-(N-ethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl}-5□-androstan-3-one;
17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-(isopropylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5□-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-methyl-N-butylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(piperidinocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-{N-(2-furylmethyl)aminocarbonyl}heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-{7-(N-methylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-methyl-N-ethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-methyl-N-propylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-methyl-N-isopropylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-methyl-N-benzylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(1-pyrrolidinylcarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(morpholinocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[9-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[9-(N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[9-(N-methyl-N-butylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[9-(N-methyl-N-propylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[9-(morpholinocarbonyl)nonyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[10-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)decyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-{N-(2-hydroxyethyl)aminocarbonyl}heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-propylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-benzylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-{N-(2-phenylethyl)aminocarbonyl}heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-11α-[9-(N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[3-[3-{3-(N-methylaminocarbonyl)propoxy}phenyl]propyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[3-[3-{3-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)propoxy}phenyl]propyl]-5α-androstan-3-

one; and

17β-hydroxy-7α-[3-[3-{4-(1-

pyrrolidinylcarbonyl)butoxy}phenyl]propyl]-5 α -androstan-3-

one.